

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2014

Members Present: Jack Breier, James Crowe, Linda Fried, Tom Sontag, Beth Skelton, Theodore Smith, Irv Logan, Paulette Carr

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Linda Fried
Minutes of the Sept 10, 2014 were read, Tom motioned to accept, Jack second, motion passed.

City Council Liaison Update: Paulette presented sample by-laws of other University City commissions, she suggests the Forestry Commission consider a set of by-laws, members will study the proposal and discuss at the next meeting.

Monthly Forestry Reports: September and October were reviewed and after discussion Jack motioned
to accept, Tom second, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- A) 7100 Willow Tree: Linda met with Mr. Walker to discuss the removal of a city tree at 7100 Willow Tree. Linda reported that there were extenuating circumstances surrounding the removal of that tree as explained to her by Mr. Walker. Linda described that most commissions in the city are of an advisory nature and the Forestry Commission is an exception and we may want to consider being an advisory committee, as are the others. Tom and Jack both disagreed with the City Managers handling of the tree removal, Tom presented a draft of a letter addressed to Mr. Walker and the city council protesting Mr. Walker's actions, and the removal of the appeals process from the Forestry Commission. He requested members sign the letter, this was taken under advisement.
Linda also requested the Commission take on the task of educating the citizens about trees and asked members to bring ideas along these lines to the next meeting.
- B) Arbor Day: James asked that the Commission take on the planning for the Arbor Day celebration. It was suggested that the celebration coincide with the Bike the Tree Walk on May 3.

New Business:

- A) Bike the Tree Walk: Stephanie Brot, representing the Parks Foundation presented their fundraising activity. The Bike the Tree Walk will take place on May 3 with a bike ride scheduled starting in Millar Park and traveling to Fogerty, Greensfelder and Kaufman parks. The Foundation is requesting the support of the Commission and volunteers to work as tree experts on the day. The Foundation has plans to install either shade trees or fruit trees in conjunction with the updates to Millar Park.
- B) All meetings in 2015 will be held at the Community Center.
- C) James reported that the tree trimming bids have gone out to contractors; the deadline for bid acceptance is November 20. He further reported that trees have arrived for planting and that would begin this week.

Discussion and citizen comments: Linda announced that member Carol Dean had completed her last round of chemotherapy and best wishes go out from the commission.

Meeting was called for adjournment at 8:30pm by Linda

James Crowe